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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 10

By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to commend Bill Baxter for honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those inimitable public servants who during their tenure in office have performed their appointed duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented commitment, and whose professionalism and competence will serve as a benchmark for future public officials; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Baxter is one such distinguished public servant who has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his remarkable talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, beginning his meritorious service as a member of Governor Sundquist's administration in 1997, Bill Baxter has distinguished himself as a highly respected leader in his field and an effective public servant; his decision to quit his post as Commissioner of Economic and Community Development leaves a void in state government that will not easily be filled; and

WHEREAS, a cum laude graduate of Duke University and a graduate of the University of Tennessee School of Law, Commissioner Baxter is the chairman of his family-owned business, Holston Gases, Inc., a distributor of propane, industrial, medical, and laboratory

gases; headquartered in Knoxville, Holston Gases has seven distribution facilities in Middle and East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining state government, Mr. Baxter played an integral role in economic development and community service activities in his hometown of Knoxville, including serving as the 1997 United Way Campaign Chairman, the Knoxville Zoo Board Chairman, and as a board member of the Economic Development Task Force; and

WHEREAS, under the strong and capable hand of Commissioner Baxter, the state of Tennessee achieved its two best years in private capital investment and job creation, attracting \$5 billion in 1998 and \$6 billion in 1999 and introducing over 40,000 new jobs in each of those years; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Baxter's dedication and guidance led to Tennessee earning the prestigious accolade of "State of the Year," an honor acknowledging the state's tremendous economic accomplishments achieved in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Baxter will be long remembered as an advocate and crusader for good, responsive government and the concerns of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Commissioner, Bill Baxter has been a prominent figure on Capitol Hill; he is a gentleman whose talent and energy will seldom be equaled and, without question, he will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Baxter is fortunate to share both love and companionship with Ginger and their four children Elizabeth, Jennifer, Joe, and John; and

WHEREAS, it is now highly appropriate that the friends and colleagues of this outstanding public servant should honor him and recognize his numerous accomplishments and contributions to our great state upon the occasion of his departure from state government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Bill Baxter for his

immeasurable service to Tennessee, and honor him for his distinguished service as Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish Commissioner Baxter all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.